

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 24th April 2015

Apologies were received from Kate Crabtree, Lyn Lowdon, Glenn Penfold and Carl Pickles.

Choosing of Churchwardens

Nominations were received for Mr Sean Kavanagh and Mrs Margaret Murray who were unanimously elected.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2016

1. Minutes of Annual Meetings of 2015, which had been sent electronically with some copies in print available, were considered and accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. There were no Matters Arising.

3. The Electoral Roll, revised March 2016, now contains 100 names.

4. Elections to the PCC (2 vacancies for 3 years)

Nominations were received (properly proposed and seconded) for Sarah Johnson and Rutton Viccajee. Since there were no other nominations they were declared elected. Placings would be decided in council. Jane Milne and Kay Tauschwitz joined the PCC during 2015 to fill vacancies, once they had been on the Electoral Role for the minimum 6 months.

6. Appointment of Sidesmen (Welcoming Team).

Claire thanked the Welcome Team for their work in the past year. The team have been proactive in putting forward ideas for improvement, and now the Bibles given out have Welcome Leaflets and Cards inside.

The Welcoming Team were confirmed as Brian and Margaret Eddleston, Julian and Kathleen Wontner, Margaret Murray, Lisa Keers, and families Broughton, Bunce and Pickles.

7. Church Wardens Report 2015-2016

The report was presented by Sean Kavanagh. There were no comments or questions.

8. PCC Secretary's Report to APCM 2016: Paul Burdett

The report was presented by Paul Burdett. There were no comments or questions.

Claire thanked Paul for his hard work as PCC Secretary, and in particular for his support to her personally, helping her to settle in at St Paul's and being a fount of essential expertise. All present expressed their appreciation by loud applause.

9. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer: Sue Treherne

The report was presented by Sue Treherene. There were no comments or questions.

Claire announced that Sue will be handing over her Treasurer role during 2015 to Nicki Bunce, and she thanked Sue for all her hard work, once again to warm applause. With Nicki as Treasurer, it will be necessary to appoint a new examiner of accounts, as Nicki's father cannot continue in this role. Recommendations are sought from the congregation.

10a. Deanery Synod Report and Hire of the Old School

The report was presented by Sally Banks. Claire commented how useful and informative the Deanery Synod meetings were, with ideas and inspiration to take away each time.

11. Appointment of Examiner

Roger Whiting can no longer act as our examiner, as his daughter Nicki Bunce will become our treasurer this year, which represents a potential conflict of interests. Recommendations for a new examiner were sought from the congregation, and an announcement will be made once a new examiner has been appointed.

12. Revd Claire Holt

At our 10am service today, Claire talked about the many things we can celebrate here at St Paul's, but also that our growth has led to a need to change the way we are organised, and bring new leaders into the team, so that Claire is not overstretched, and is no longer a bottleneck for things to happen. A recording of Claire's sermon is available on our website, and the text is also available from Claire if you missed it, or would like to listen again.

Claire has suffered a long period of illness this year, so we have seen very clearly what happens if we don't get this right. Rutton and Elizabeth joining us have been real answers to prayer.

Shared leadership brings many benefits, not least the ability to bounce ideas among a team, and it will be essential if we are to move forward. We have started to see some real success in this area:

Nicki Bunce has taken on **Christmas Buzz** as a three year commitment. It takes a lot of planning, preparation and energy, but for the past two years, Claire hasn't needed to worry, just turn up to play her part on the day.

Helen Rogers has taken on a leadership role in **Pastoral Care**. This hasn't taken a lot of hours, but has meant that there has been thinking space, and a lot of good ideas have resulted and new people have become involved. Some training has been organised, a new buddy system set up, and new people connected in.

These two examples show how effective just a small injection of time can be. Please be thinking and praying about whether you could take on a leadership role in a particular area. We will need new leaders in two key areas:

Spiritual Growth, looking at prayer, Lent, and how we grow in our faith;

Connecting with the Community, how we welcome people in, how we reach out.

Please remember – being a leader doesn't mean doing everything! It's about taking responsibility and building a team, delegating work and seeing it through.

These are our most urgent roles to fill:

Children's Team leader, to oversee the work of the children's teams. We also need new people to get involved in leading the Buzz Plus group, which is now our biggest group.

Jethro's Team (after Moses' father-in-law, from today's reading Exodus 18, v17-23)), which would keep an eye out for people who are missing from church, and either let Claire know, or make contact themselves, to check that people are alright.

Event Leaders – we need a leader for the 150th Anniversary Barn Dance at harvest time, or this event will not take place. Each main event in the calendar needs to have a different leader, so that no one person becomes overstretched.

Coffee Plus leader, as Naomi is moving to Devon. We have a good team in place, but it needs a leader to manage it.

Claire expressed her thanks to Sally in the office and to Sean and Margaret for their continued support this year. She thanked the PCC, and in particular Kate, who steps down after a long stint, and Phil, after serving 6 years!

Last year our theme was "Pray, plan and play your part", and we need to continue to do this! Please be praying, think about whether you can pick up a role – see the list of roles on the blue display boards in the North Room if you need inspiration! There will also be a prayer event coming up soon.

13. Any Other Business

Julian Wontner mentioned that although we have a contractor in regularly now to cut the grass, there is still a lot of weeding and tidying that needs to be done, including clearing away flowers etc which are past their best. Claire added that Bill Manfield had agreed to regularly walk round the churchyard to check and clear rubbish, and thanked him for taking on this role. There is a need to tidy up and get the churchyard looking its best before our July weddings.

*First Draft these minutes issued 28 April 2016
Sally Banks, PCC Secretary*